

the English market in proper form, and that the farmers will get a full price without having to sell it through the hands of middlemen. Our export of agricultural products has now become of sufficient importance for the Government to have agents in England to represent that industry, and I trust that the Government will see its way to appoint these agents in the near future.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is another way in which the expenditure of money by the Government can help our dairy interests, and in connection with which the vote for agricultural purposes can be more beneficially employed than by paying bonuses. It is my opinion, that we should look after the sanitary condition of our dairy herds, and if that is done, the farmers will reap a great benefit from it. Let the Government look after the health of our stock, let them attend to our dairying interests in a proper manner, let us have proper cold storage transportation, let us have men to look after our interests in England, and when we have all that, we want no bonuses. As I have already said, if the money which would be spent in bonuses, is applied in the directions I have intimated, it will redound much more to the benefit of Canadian agriculturists.

Mr. MACLEAN. It is not my intention to offer any harsh criticism on the Minister of Agriculture, or on the present policy of the Government, in regard to his department. It is more or less a policy of protection; it is more or less a policy of the encouragement of our native industries, especially of our agricultural products. In adopting this policy of protection, the Government think they are following a conservative policy, and so, in some way, they are ashamed of it, and hon. gentlemen like the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Stenson) get up and say that they do not believe in bonuses. But what is the providing of cold storage but the giving of Government aid to encourage a native industry; what is the appointment of agents in England but something in the same direction, and what would be Government oversight of our herds but encouragement and protection for the dairy industry? The competition in agricultural products is so keen to-day, that if we wish to be in the race, we must do what other people are doing. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Stenson) says that we now control the British market for our cheese; but he must know that the Americans, as well as the farming countries of Europe, are preparing to adopt such legislation as will compel us to share that market with them. They see that once you have the seed, every one can grow the plant, and so they intend to follow our example in giving Government encouragement to their cheese industry. The British West India Islands have been ruined by the bonuses given to sugar by European countries, and so the English Government, by some kind of protection or Government relief, are coming to the aid of the sugar-

growers of the British West India Islands, and in that way they are adopting the principle of protection. The bonus or bounty system is the most direct and, to my mind, the best system of protection; and, if we find that other countries are adopting it, we must follow suit, if we intend to hold the market. I have been struck with an article which I read the other day, in the "North American Review," and which was written by the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, Chairman of the Recess Committee and President of the Royal Agricultural Society. That committee is one of the most important that has sat in England for many years. It was designed to investigate the lack of progress in Ireland, as compared with the other British Isles. It held a number of sessions, and the committee sent its representatives all over Europe to make inquiries and comparisons. One of its findings was this:

The Irish difficulty is well known to be rather economic than political, and it is more so to-day than ever.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the real trouble in Ireland; it is not a political, but an economic grievance. The agricultural industries in Ireland are seriously depressed, her manufacturing industries have been depressed, and they have now come to see that the grievances of Ireland are economical, and not political. The Right Hon. Mr. Plunkett says:

We instituted an inquiry into the means by which the Government could best promote the development of our agricultural and industrial resources.

They sent their commissioners to France, to Belgium, to Holland, to Denmark, to Wurttemberg, to Bavaria, to Austria, to Hungary and to Switzerland, and they found that the reason the farmers of all these countries could beat the British agriculturist out of his own market was because the governments of all these countries, by bonusing or some system of protection, had brought their farmers to such a condition that they could compete with the English and Irish farmers in their own markets. That was the finding of this important committee; that was the finding of these members of the British Parliament, who were committed to free trade. Here is a recommendation that was made by this committee. Mr. Plunkett says:

We recommend that a department of Government should be specially created with a Minister directly responsible to Parliament at its head; the department to be adequately endowed from the Imperial treasury, so as to administer state aid to agriculture and industries in Ireland, upon principles which were fully described. I need only say here that the scheme in its main features was taken from the institutions of the countries to which our investigations were extended, and modified to meet the requirements of our own case.

This committee waited on the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and here is an account of the interview: